



# MARSHAL MATTERS

## AUGUST 2019 EDITION

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## Marshal's Minute-State Fire Marshal Matt Perez



Students are heading back for another year at Illinois colleges and universities. I can't stress enough to students and parents to make fire safety a top priority! Governor Pritzker has signed a proclamation marking September "Campus Fire Safety Month in Illinois".

Illinois is among numerous other states nationwide participating in a campaign run by [Campus Firewatch](#), an online publication working to improve fire safety at schools. This is the 14<sup>th</sup> year Illinois has participated in the campaign which is designed to raise awareness on campuses about fire and life safety. The goal is to help prevent common campus fires and reduce fire hazards. According to Campus Firewatch, 85% of college-related fire fatalities have happened in off-campus housing, where most

students live.

College students sometimes haven't received fire safety education since elementary school and now that they are on their own, it's more important than ever they are prepared! Campus Fire Safety Month is a reminder for students that fires do happen on and off campus and aims to teach students how to protect themselves if fire affects their campus home.

Here are some fire safety tips and ways to help keep students safe when choosing a residence:

- Look for on and off campus housing that has sprinklers.
- Make sure that you can hear the building's fire alarm system.
- Check to make sure all sleeping rooms, common areas have functioning smoke alarms. For optimal protection, all smoke alarms in the home should be interconnected so that when one sounds, they all sound.
- Never remove batteries or disable the alarm.
- Test all smoke alarms at least monthly.
- If you live off campus, have a fire escape plan with two ways out of every room.
- Learn the building's evacuation plan and practice all drills as if they were the real thing.
- When the smoke alarm or CO alarm sounds, exit the building quickly and stay out until given instructions to return.
- If you smoke, smoke outside and only in designated areas.
- Never leave the kitchen when cooking.
- Check with your local fire department, building management or campus office before using a barbeque grill or fire pit.
- Never overload electrical outlets and check with the school to make sure what electrical appliances are allowed.

**OSFM Employee Spotlight****Andrea Klees-Administrative Assistant**

**Where are you originally from?** Virden, Illinois which is 30 miles south of Springfield.

**Where did you go to college?** SIU-C where I studied communications and received a degree in Radio/TV.

**Tell us about your family?** Married to my husband Jeff. I have two daughters (Madelyn-18 and Elizabeth-16) and three step-children (Emma-18, Baylee-16 and Aayden-10). We have one dog, Kyra and one cat, Baby.

**What are your favorite foods?** Steak and potatoes

**What hobbies do you enjoy?** Boating and passenger on the Harley 😊

**What's your favorite movie?** About Last Night

**What can we expect to hear blasting from your car speakers?** All types of music, my favorite is 90's alternative.

**What did you want to be as a kid?** I was a gymnast when I was young, so of course I wanted to be Mary Lou Retton. I have always admired Barbara Walters, I am not sure now why I wanted to be her? I just think there was some part of me that wanted to be on television and be a respected member of the community.

**Favorite part of your job?** Working with the best people and my boss Matt Perez. I really like my position because I get to work with all divisions.

**Something unique about you?** My dad was the treasurer of the Virden Fire Protection District for as long as I can remember, so I grew up in a firehouse, hanging out with the firefighters.

**Favorite place to vacation?** Hawaii

**Bucket list destinations?** Ireland & Red Rocks concert venue Colorado

**Tell us what you do at OSFM?** Perform duties for the executive division of OSFM. Those duties, mostly confidential in nature, include: serve as Private Secretary to the Agency Director, Deputy Director, Chief of Operations and Chief Fiscal Officer. Maintain confidential files and documents, review and screen correspondence, send awards and certificates, compile monthly executive reports, serve as the ethics training administrator and ethics assistant for yearly reports and arrange travel for executive staff. Plus, much more...

## OSFM in Illinois State Fair Twilight Parade



*Fred Schneller & Dale Simpson*



*Kathy & Michael Fairfield and Katherine Nunes*



*Power Puff Girls-Anderson, CeCe & Abby*



*Fire Marshal Perez & Governor Pritzker*



*Ronny & Debbie Wickenhauser*



*Sam Schrage and Kensie Proctor*

## OSFM in Illinois State Fair Twilight Parade



*OSFM and IFSI getting ready for the parade!*



OSFM had a great time in the Illinois State Fair Twilight Parade held on Thursday, August 8<sup>th</sup>! Thanks to Governor Pritzker for stopping and visiting with OSFM!



*Governor Pritzker & Norman Perez*



*OSFM in action during the parade!*

## Illinois State Fair



*Doc & Shags teaching fire safety*



OSFM thanks all the organizations that helped staff the fire safety tent during the fair.

The dedication and commitment to spreading the fire prevention and safety message was evident all week from the volunteers!

Thanks to OSFM members who prepared the meals and served the volunteers! There were lots of smiles during lunchtime!

Check out OSFM's Facebook and YouTube pages to view videos highlighting each of the organizations!

## Illinois State Fair



*Left Photo- Fire Marshal Perez, Gov. Pritzker, Chris and Katherine in Governor's Tent*



*Right Photo- Abe Lincoln and John*



*Miss Illinois County Fair Queen Alexi Bladel and King Norman. Alexi is working on her degree in fire science!*



*Simony, Nancy & Norman in the Governor's Tent*



*Kensie and Kathy helping feed the volunteers*



*Arson K-9 Demonstration*



*Amanda and Mary helping feed the volunteers*

## Du Quoin State Fair Parade



*Fire Marshal Perez & Terry Ooms*



*Fire Marshal Perez, Terry Ooms & Katherine Nunes*



*Kensie Proctor, Janet Patterson, Terry Ooms & Fire Marshal Perez*

OSFM made the journey to southern Illinois and participated in the Du Quoin State Fair Parade on Thursday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>. The streets were lined with residents and a great time was had by OSFM personnel from the office. What a perfect way to kick off the festivities at the fair!



## Du Quoin State Fair Waterball

Tabletop Water Fight First Place:  
Christopher 2



Tabletop Water fight Second Place:  
Coello



Tabletop Water Fight Third Place:  
Vergennes 1



3-Firefighter Hose Hook-up First  
Place: Gorham



3-Firefighter Hose Hook-up Second  
Place: DeSoto



3 Firefighter Hose Hook-up Third  
Place: Vergennes



Wild Hose First Place: Zack Halstead



Wild Hose Second Place: Brandon  
Rushing



Wild Hose Third Place: Tony Randall



A great time was had by departments and firefighters again this year at the Du Quoin State Fair! Bragging rights were earned and rematches planned for next year. Fire Marshal Perez was on hand to watch and hand out the awards. Ms. Illinois County Fair Queen Alexi Bladel helped Fire Marshal hand out the awards. Make sure to sign up for next year's event!

## Du Quoin State Fair



OSFM was part of the Du Quoin State Fair again this year. Kids visited the Fire Safety Tent where they learned important fire safety information and got to take a picture on the fire truck golf cart. Fairgoers were also able to visit with OSFM staff in the Governor's tent where more fire safety information was available. Thanks to all the departments who helped in the Fire Safety Tent!



*Volunteers from Hurst Fire Department*



*Volunteers from Pinckneyville Fire Department*



*Brent & Mindy Vanfoosan  
Christopher Fire Department*



*OSFM Fire Prevention Inspectors  
and Smokey*



OSFM office staff also got into the Waterball action with a tabletop water fight. Kensie defended her title and remains the champion.  
Photo left to right: Jodi, Kensie, Fire Marshal Perez, Katherine and Janet.

## Campus Fire Safety Month

Illinois is among numerous other states nationwide participating in a campaign run by [Campus Firewatch](#), an online publication working to improve fire safety at schools. This is the 14<sup>th</sup> year Illinois has participated in the campaign which is designed to raise awareness on campuses about fire and life safety during September. The goal is to prevent common campus fires and reduce fire hazards. According to Campus Firewatch, 85% of college-related fire fatalities have happened in off-campus housing, where most students live. Smoking leads the way as the cause of fatal campus fires from 2000 to 2015.



### Off-campus housing fire safety checklist

Since 2000, 85% of college-related fire fatalities have happened in off-campus housing, where most students live. When looking for a place, consider these 10 items:

#### Smoke Alarms

- ☐ Are there smoke alarms in every bedroom, on every level of the building?
- ☐ In most fatal fires, the smoke alarms are missing or disabled. Often, a reason for this is nuisance alarms caused by cooking. Photoelectric smoke alarms near the kitchen can help cut down on this. What kind of smoke alarms do you have?

#### Exits

- ☐ Are there two ways out of every bedroom? Keep in mind the second way out may be a window.
- ☐ If a window is the second way out, does it open? Is it blocked by an air conditioner? Can you climb out of it? Are there security bars on the window?
- ☐ If the bedroom is on a second or third floor, do you have an escape ladder? These can be purchased online or in a home improvement store.
- ☐ Is there a second way out of the house or unit? Every apartment must have two ways out.

#### Automatic Fire Sprinklers

- ☐ Is the building equipped with automatic fire sprinklers? This will increase your chances of surviving a fire significantly.

#### Fire Causes

- ☐ The leading cause of all home fires is cooking. What condition is the stove in?
- ☐ What about the electrical service? Are there enough outlets to handle today's electrical needs?
- ☐ What about smoking? The leading cause of all fatal home fires is smoking, and a contributing factor in college-related fires is fires that start in upholstered furniture on porches and decks.

There is a lot more to consider when looking for fire-safe housing, this is not a complete list. For more information on campus fire safety, visit

- Campus Firewatch ([www.campus-firewatch.com](http://www.campus-firewatch.com))
- U.S. Fire Administration ([www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov))
- National Fire Protection Association ([www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org))

#### Campus Firewatch

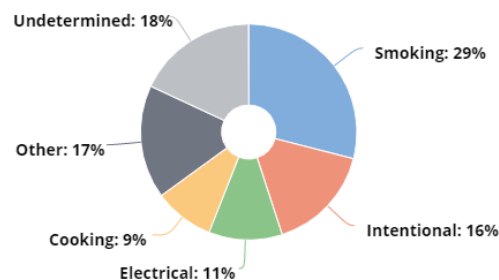
[www.campus-firewatch.com](http://www.campus-firewatch.com) | Facebook [www.facebook.com/campusfirewatch](https://www.facebook.com/campusfirewatch) | [@campusfirewatch](https://twitter.com/campusfirewatch) | [ecomeau@campus-firewatch.com](mailto:ecomeau@campus-firewatch.com)

Revised 07.23.18

When looking for an off-campus residence it's important to keep safety in mind. Does the home/apartment have smoke alarms? Are they working? Where are the exits? Automatic Fire Sprinklers are there any in the home or apartment? If you already have a place to live, check the smoke alarms monthly and post a plan showing the escape routes and a meeting place in the event of an emergency.

### Causes of fatal campus fires (2000-2015)

Smoking is the leading cause of fatal campus fires.



## National Preparedness Month



- Week 1: Sept 1-7**  
Save Early for Disaster Costs
- Week 2: Sept 8-14**  
Make a Plan to Prepare for Disasters
- Week 3: Sept 15-21**  
Teach Youth to Prepare for Disasters
- Week 4: Sept 22-30**  
Get Involved in Your Community's Preparedness

September is National Preparedness Month. IEMA and FEMA wants everyone to think about your emergency plan. If you don't have a plan for fire, weather or other disasters now is the time to come up with one. This year's theme is, Prepared, Not Scared. Being proactive instead of reactive is so important when it comes to surviving a disaster.

Plan, Practice, Monitor and Act are four important words to remember when thinking about preparedness.

**Plan:** create a plan for fire, weather and other disasters for your home or office. Post the plan in a highly visible area and make sure everyone has

a copy.

**Practice:** Hold a fire drill, tornado drill or other disaster drills at home or in the office. Make sure everyone knows where to go and what to do in the event of an emergency. PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT!

**Monitor:** If severe weather is possible, designate someone in the home or office to be the weather watcher. Always treat the sound of a smoke alarm or CO alarm seriously.

**Act:** When severe weather is imminent it's time to head to your shelter. If you hear a smoke alarm or CO alarm, it's time to put your plan into action. Evacuate the home and head to the meeting spot you have designated in your plan.

If you put these four simple words into action you and your family will be prepared for any emergency that may arise.

FEMA has put together a great guide to creating an emergency plan. Here is the link to the guide that you and your family could use. [https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1530826217620-10775bfc5d7600be8e6b88308b24d8c/P1094\\_CreateYourFamilyEmergencyCommunicationPlan\\_070318.pdf](https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1530826217620-10775bfc5d7600be8e6b88308b24d8c/P1094_CreateYourFamilyEmergencyCommunicationPlan_070318.pdf)

Make sure to visit [www.ready.illinois.gov](http://www.ready.illinois.gov) for information regarding preparedness. There are resources available to help prepare you and your family for any emergency.



The following sections will guide you through the process to create and practice your **Family Emergency Communication Plan**.



## HOUSEHOLD INFORMATION

Write down phone numbers and email addresses for everyone in your household. Having this important information written down will help you reconnect with others in case you don't have your mobile device or computer with you or if the battery runs down. If you have a household member(s) who is Deaf or hard of hearing, or who has a speech disability and uses traditional or video relay service (VRS), include information on how to connect through relay services on a landline phone, mobile device, or computer.

## SCHOOL, CHILDCARE, CAREGIVER, AND WORKPLACE EMERGENCY PLANS

Because a disaster can strike during school or work hours, you need to know their emergency response plans and how to stay informed. Discuss these plans with children, and let them know who could pick them up in an emergency. Make sure your household members with phones are signed up for alerts and warnings from their school, workplace, and/or local government. To find out more about how to sign up, see *Know Your Alerts and Warnings* at [ready.gov](https://ready.gov). For children without mobile phones, make sure they know to follow instructions from a responsible adult, such as a teacher or principal.

## OUT-OF-TOWN CONTACT

It is also important to identify someone outside of your community or State who can act as a central point of contact to help your household reconnect. In a disaster, it may be easier to make a long-distance phone call than to call across town because local phone lines can be jammed.

## EMERGENCY MEETING PLACES

Decide on safe, familiar places where your family can go for protection or to reunite. Make sure these locations are accessible for household members with disabilities or access and functional needs. If you have pets or service animals, think about animal-friendly locations. Identify the following places:

- ☐ **Indoor:** If you live in an area where tornadoes, hurricanes, or other high-wind storms can happen, make sure everyone knows where to go for protection. This could be a small, interior, windowless room, such as a closet or bathroom, on the lowest level of a sturdy building, or a tornado safe room or storm shelter.
- ☐ **In your neighborhood:** This is a place in your neighborhood where your household members will meet if there is a fire or other emergency and you need to leave your home. The meeting place could be a big tree, a mailbox at the end of the driveway, or a neighbor's house.
- ☐ **Outside of your neighborhood:** This is a place where your family will meet if a disaster happens when you're not at home and you can't get back to your home. This could be a library, community center, house of worship, or family friend's home.

- ☐ If driving, do not text, read texts, or make a call without a hands-free device.
- ☐ Maintain a household landline and analog phone (with battery backup if it has a cordless receiver) that can be used when mobile phone service is unavailable. Those who are Deaf or hard of hearing, or who have speech disabilities and use devices and services that depend on digital technology (e.g., VRS, Internet Protocol (IP) Relay, or captioning) should have an analog phone (e.g., TTY, amplified phone, or caption phone) with battery backup in case Internet or mobile service is down.
- ☐ If you evacuate and have a call-forwarding feature on your home phone, forward your home phone number to your mobile phone number.
- ☐ Use the Internet to communicate by email, Twitter, Facebook, and other social media networks. These communication channels allow you to share information quickly with a widespread audience or to find out if loved ones are OK. The Internet can also be used for telephone calls through Voice over Internet Protocol. For those who are Deaf or hard of hearing, or who have speech disabilities, you can make calls through your IP Relay provider.
- ☐ If you do not have a mobile phone, keep a prepaid phone card to use if needed during or after a disaster.
- ☐ Use a pay phone if available. It may have less congestion because these phones don't rely on electricity or mobile networks. In some public places, you may be able to find a TTY that can be used by those who are Deaf or hard of hearing, or who have speech disabilities.

The reader recognizes that the Federal Government provides links and informational data on various disaster preparedness resources and events and does not endorse any non-Federal events, entities, organizations, services, or products.



Creating your *Family Emergency Communication Plan* starts with one simple question: "What if?"

"What if something happens and I'm not with my family?" "Will I be able to reach them?" "How will I know they are safe?" "How can I let them know I'm OK?" During a disaster, you will need to send and receive information from your family.

Communication networks, such as mobile phones and computers, could be unreliable during disasters, and electricity could be disrupted. Planning in advance will help ensure that all the members of your household—including children and people with disabilities and others with access and functional needs, as well as outside caregivers—know how to reach each other and where to meet up in an emergency. Planning starts with three easy steps:



### 1. COLLECT.

Create a paper copy of the contact information for your family and other important people/offices, such as medical facilities, doctors, schools, or service providers.



### 2. SHARE.

Make sure everyone carries a copy in his or her backpack, purse, or wallet. If you complete your *Family Emergency Communication Plan* online at [ready.gov/make-a-plan](https://ready.gov/make-a-plan), you can print it onto a wallet-sized card. You should also post a copy in a central location in your home, such as your refrigerator or family bulletin board.



### 3. PRACTICE.

Have regular household meetings to review and practice your plan.

**TEXT IS BEST!**

If you are using a mobile phone, a text message may get through when a phone call will not. This is because a text message requires far less bandwidth than a phone call. Text messages may also save and then send automatically as soon as capacity becomes available.

- ☐ **Outside of your town or city:** Having an out-of-town meeting place can help you reunite if a disaster happens and:
  - You cannot get home or to your out-of-neighborhood meeting place; or
  - Your family is not together and your community is instructed to evacuate the area.

This meeting place could be the home of a relative or family friend. Make sure everyone knows the address of the meeting place and discuss ways you would get there.

## OTHER IMPORTANT NUMBERS AND INFORMATION

You should also write down phone numbers for emergency services, utilities, service providers, medical providers, veterinarians, insurance companies, and other services.



- ☐ Make copies of your *Family Emergency Communication Plan* for each member of the household to carry in his or her wallet, backpack, or purse. Post a copy in a central place at home. Regularly check to make sure your household members are carrying their plan with them.
- ☐ Enter household and emergency contact information into all household members' mobile phones or devices.
- ☐ Store at least one emergency contact under the name "In Case of Emergency" or "ICE" for all mobile phones and devices. This will help someone identify your emergency contact if needed. Inform your emergency contact of any medical issues or other requirements you may have.
- ☐ Create a group list on all mobile phones and devices of the people you would need to communicate with if there was an emergency or disaster.
- ☐ Make sure all household members and your out-of-town contact know how to text if they have a mobile phone or device, or know alternative ways to communicate if they are unable to text.
- ☐ Read *Know Your Alerts and Warnings* at [ready.gov](https://ready.gov) and sign up to receive emergency information.

Once you have completed your *Family Emergency Communication Plan*, made copies for all the members of your household, and discussed it, it's time to practice! Here are some ideas for practicing your plan:

- ☐ Practice texting and calling. Have each person practice sending a text message or calling your out-of-town contact and sending a group text to your mobile phone group list.
- ☐ Discuss what information you should send by text. You will want to let others know you are safe and where you are. Short messages like "I'm OK. At library" are good.



## 12 WAYS TO PREPARE

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sign up for Alerts and Warnings	Make a Plan	Save for a Rainy Day	Practice Emergency Drills	Test Family Communication Plan	Safeguard Documents
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Plan with Neighbors	Make Your Home Safer	Know Evacuation Routes	Assemble or Update Supplies	Get Involved in Your Community	Document and Insure Property

## Close Before You Doze

### CLOSE YOUR DOOR It Could Save Your Life

Fire is getting faster, so if you can get out, get out. But if you can't, a closed door could make a life-saving difference.



*Close the door and better your chances! A closed door could buy you time in a fire, and that's not all...*

A closed door can hold back fire's heat. In tests, an open door room reached dangerous temperatures while a closed door room stayed under 100° F.



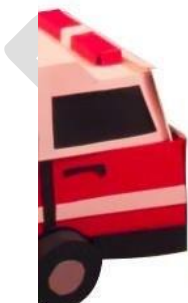
A fire needs oxygen to burn. Don't let it take yours! A closed door can keep more oxygen in the room – and away from the fire – so you can breathe better.

Closing the bedroom door at night could give you more time to react to if the smoke alarm sounds.

A closed door can help slow fire's spread and keep dangerous smoke away from you.

Because of the plastics in most modern furniture and household items, fire is more toxic and much faster than ever before.

A fire needs heat, fuel and oxygen to exist. Closing the door when exiting a burning structure can cut off the oxygen and stop the growth of fire.



*This simple step at night could save your life! This video shows the difference between rooms with and without the door shut after a fire.*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bSP03BE74WA>

## Making A Difference



OSFM participated in a Touch-A-Truck event in the Village of Bartlett. We received a letter thanking and praising OSFM for participating. Here is what it had to say:

“On behalf of the Bartlett Police Department, we would like to thank Mr. Robert Capuani, Mr. Terry Brown and Ms. Lauren Doherty from the Office of the State Fire Marshal for participating in our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual National Night Out Certified Safety Seat Check and Touch-A-Truck event. We safely installed over 80 car seats, completed 175 Child Identification Cards and had several hundred families explore the awesome vehicles. It was a very hot day, but we appreciated the positive attitude your team brought to the event!” WAY TO GO!!!!



Congratulations to Catherine Stashak, OSFM's Technical Services Division Manager for being honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award from NFPA! Cathy works tirelessly to further and promote the mission of OSFM!



## Kid's Corner



# Family Communication Plan

Emergencies can happen at any time. Do you know how to get in touch with your family if you are not together?

**Let them know  
you're OK!**

Pick the same person for each family member to contact. It might be easier to reach someone who's out of town.

**Text,  
don't talk!**

Unless you are in immediate danger, send a text. Texts often have an easier time getting through during emergencies, and you don't want to tie up phone lines needed by emergency responders (like 911).



## Know the Numbers!

Home: \_\_\_\_\_

Adult: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent: \_\_\_\_\_

Home: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Work: \_\_\_\_\_

Neighbor: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent: \_\_\_\_\_

Home: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Work: \_\_\_\_\_

Neighbor: \_\_\_\_\_

My cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Home: \_\_\_\_\_

Sibling: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Out of state friend/relative: \_\_\_\_\_

Sibling: \_\_\_\_\_

Home: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

**Memorize your home and parents'  
cell phone numbers!**



Cut this out and keep it somewhere safe like your backpack, school notebook, or wallet. Or input these numbers into your cell phone if you have one.



<http://www.ready.gov/kids>

**Kid's Corner Cont.**

## *Know Where to Go... and How to Get There.*

### **Pick a Meeting Spot**

Where will you meet up with your family if you have to get out of your house quickly? Where will you meet if your neighborhood is being evacuated and you're not at home?

**In your neighborhood:**

(such as neighbor's house or big tree)

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**Out of your neighborhood:**

(such as the library or house of worship)

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### **Draw a Map**

Put a Δ to show your home. Put a O to show your school. Mark your out-of-neighborhood meeting spot with an X and label it.

### **Know the Exits**

Do you know two ways out of every room in your house in case of a fire? Draw a floor plan of your bedroom in the space below and circle the two ways to get out. Hint: one may not be a door!



<http://www.ready.gov/kids>